

18 AUG 1978

The Honorable Harold Brown
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Harold:

(U) Your 2 August 1978 letter asks me to withhold issuance of DCID 1/16 pending completion of an assessment to update the impact this DCID will have on Department of Defense investigative resources. This DCID was approved by the National Foreign Intelligence Board on 6 June 1978 and is effective as of that date. Subsequently it was issued in its published form on 2 August 1978.

(U) I appreciate your concerns about the resource impact, but believe any resource impacts lie in the future as more computer systems are planned and brought on line. I doubt that it will affect near term budgetary processes. Please let me know if this does not hold true for Defense.

(C) My concern in the computer environment is the inability of computer hardware and software to provide the requisite security for highly sensitive intelligence information processed or stored in many of our systems. Based on this inability of the systems to protect the information, access to the systems must be restricted to those individuals who meet the highest criteria for loyalty and trustworthiness. I believe this requirement will permit a balance between a high degree of security and efficiency/effectiveness of operations using computer systems.

(U) I am, of course, prepared to review the provisions of DCID 1/16 in view of your assessment and the requirements for protection of the information involved.

Yours,

STANSFIELD TURNER

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